# GB chief judge takes oath for second term

## Justice Sardar Shamim Khan sworn in by governor

By Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: Justice Sardar Muhammad Shamim Khan took oath as the chief justice of the Supreme Appellate Court of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) on Wednesday for the second time. The oath was administered by GB Governor Syed Mehdi Shah at a ceremony held at the Governor's House in Gilgit.

The ceremony was attended by chief judge of the GB chief court, Justice Ali Baig, other judges of the chief court and subordinate judiciary, civil and military officers, and senior lawyers.

The three-year tenure of Chief Justice Shamim Khan ended on Nov 4.

"The Prime Minister of Pakistan and Chairman of the Gilgit-Baltistan Council, on the advice of the Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan, has appointed Justice Sardar Muhammad Shamim Khan as the Chief Judge of the Supreme Appellate Court, Gilgit-Baltistan, with effect from November 5 until he attains the age of 70, in accordance with Article 75(8) of the GB Order 2018," a notification read.

**Vacant posts**

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif could not approve the summary for the appointment of two judges to the GB Supreme Appellate Court.

Officials said that a month ago, GB Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan had submitted a summary of eight candidates for the two vacant positions.

GB lawyers' bodies have been protesting and boycotting court proceedings for several months this year over the long-delayed appointments of the two vacant positions in the GB Supreme Appellate Court. They said two judges have not been appointed for the last eight years, and thousands of cases, mostly of public importance, have been pending in the highest judicial forum.

The GB Supreme Appellate Court consists of a chief judge and two additional members. However, for many years, the court has had only a chief judge. According to the GB High Court Bar Association, the GB Supreme Appellate Court has been operating with just one judge for the past seven years. As per the rules, a single judge cannot hear all cases, resulting in thousands of important cases remaining pending. In August this year, GB lawyer bodies ended their protest after receiving assurance that two judges would be appointed to the GB Supreme Appellate Court within one month.

# Senators pay homage to late Irfan Siddiqui

## Majority of PTI members skip condolence reference

ISLAMABAD: Senators on Wednesday paid rich tribute to late senator Irfan Siddiqui for his services as a parliamentarian, author and educationist during a special sitting of the upper house of the parliament as a majority of the opposition members skipped the proceedings.

After a number of speeches by senators, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution to pay homage to late Siddiqui, who was also the parliamentary party leader of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

The resolution was presented by Leader of the House and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar.

Irfan Siddiqui died at a private hospital after a brief illness on Monday, hours after the Senate passed the controversial 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill with a two-thirds majority with the help of two opposition senators who had voted against the party lines.

Kamran Murtaza of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F) regretted the absence of PTI members from the condolence session. He also expressed concern over a defamatory campaign against the late senator on social media, saying that such posts must be hurting for the family members of the late senator.

A majority of the opposition senators stayed away from the proceedings. PTI senators Dost Mohammad and Falak Naz in their speeches showered praises on late Siddiqui, declaring him a fatherly figure. However, Deputy Chairman Syeda Khan Nasr expunged some objectionable remarks of Dost Mohammad when he tried to link Irfan Siddiqui's death with the passage of the Constitution amendment bill.

Most of the senators said that late Siddiqui was a humble person and had never used harsh or indecent language even against his opponents. Many senators recalled various incidents and events while remembering late Siddiqui.

Parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sherry Rehman said they had lost a dignified colleague and a friend of great decency.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar later came to the house and before paying homage to late Siddiqui, he informed the members that the National Assembly had passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill with a two-thirds majority but with few changes aimed at removing some ambiguities about the seniority of the judges. He said the Senate would take the bill again today (Thursday). The Senate will meet at 11am.—Amir Wasim

KP CM Sohail Afridi (from left), Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and others attend the provincial government-organised peace jirga on Wednesday.—Dawn

# KP CM demands 'policy shift'

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department, had all made sacrifices, which helped establish peace in 2018, adding that war should always be the last option for resolving any issue. He also demanded that KP receive its full share in the National Finance Commission (NFC), which he estimated at around Rs400 billion.

Mr Afridi noted that while the tribal areas had been merged administratively with KP, the economic integration was still incomplete.

**Jirga proceedings**

The jirga was attended by former governors and chief ministers, tribal elders, lawmakers, representatives of all political parties in KP, along with legal experts, members of the business community, media representatives, and civil society members.

The participants gave written suggestions to the organisers and shared their suggestions during their speeches, with most suggesting talks with the Afghan Taliban regime for lasting peace, taking the provincial government on board before making any decision regarding peace in KP, and resolving the differences between the federal and provincial government for the larger public interest.

After an hours-long debate in the KP Assembly, the participants, in a declaration issued after the gathering's conclusion, condemned militant attacks in the province, especially in the merged districts, and reiterated that the provincial government utilise all available resources to root out militancy for lasting peace in the province.

The participants also demanded an in-camera briefing for the lawmakers on the ongoing military actions against terrorists within a stipulated time period, besides, immediate implementation of all the resolutions passed by the KP Assembly for peace in the province, in letter and spirit.

The gathering demanded constituting "peace forums" with its members comprising youth, politicians, minorities and women.

The declaration stated that the provincial finance commission should be linked with the NFC to give financial protection and stability to local governments.

The participants also demanded that KP should be provided its rights, including net-hydel profit, federal excise duty on oil, water share, precedence of natural gas, NFC share for the merged districts, implementation of 11th NFC Award, Galyat Drinking Water initiative besides implementation of Article 151 for wheat supply to KP.

**Call for talks**

KP Assembly Speaker Swati said militancy in KP began in 2002, followed by multiple military operations, yet the situation remained largely unchanged despite 22 major operations and thousands of individual border operations.

KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that every few years, a superpower came to Afghanistan but left behind a mess.

"Peace and development cannot be achieved unless the provincial and federal governments, along with security forces, work together," he added.

Leader of the Opposition in the KP Assembly, Dr Ibadullah, described militancy as a decades-long problem.

"First, a decision should be made on how to end militancy, and second, the root causes must be identified and addressed," he said.

PTI KP President Junaid Akbar traced the issue to the country's involvement in the Afghan war in the late 1970s.

He said the military initially viewed groups like the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as their own people, intended to be rehabilitated, but political leaders had expressed their reservations over the move.

PTI leader and former NA speaker Asad Qaisar called on the Afghan government to take responsibility and urged the federal government to use diplomatic channels. "Pakistan and Afghanistan cannot survive without each other," he said.

Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl's (JUI-F) Maulana Attaur Rehman emphasised that peace efforts had so far failed and urged restraint in public statements. "If somebody wants to bring peace, all stakeholders must be taken on board," he said.

PML-N's Zahid Khan said there were two options for resolving the issues — either dialogue, which if failed, then war. He added that they held dialogues in the past but the accords were broken.

"Whatever the military does should be supported by the government, or otherwise, it must step down." Jamaat-i-Islami's former chief Sirajul Haq noted that talks would be necessary even after 20 years of conflict.

"For those calling for war, [they should] look at the destruction in Jalalabad, Kabul, Peshawar, and Islamabad," he added.

Awami National Party (ANP) KP chief Mian Iftikhar Hussain called for ending the narrative of "good and bad Taliban" and urged full implementation of the National Action Plan to eradicate militancy.

Highlighting ANP's own experience, he said the party had faced militancy bravely, engaged in talks, involved all stakeholders, cleared the Malakand division, and rehabilitated displaced people.

He also called for mutual respect between Pakistan and Afghanistan, reopening trade routes, and promoting the border economy.

Former KP CM and PTI lawmaker Mahmood Khan wondered about the outcome of the past peace jirgas. He urged the federal government to engage with key stakeholders.

Other speakers included Qaumi Watan Party's Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, PML-Q's Intikhab Shamkani, Pakistan Mazdoor Kisan Party Chairman Afzal Shah Khamosh, Majlis Wahdat-i-Muslimeen's Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, and National Democratic Movement's Mohsin Dawar, among others.

# Air on CJP title cleared

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October 2024, a term which will end after three years.

Likewise, another definition added to the amendment explains that the CJP means the senior of the two chief justices.

This provision will come into play after the incumbent CJP retires from his office.

The confusion was further explained when Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar rubbished the debate raging since morning that, through the historic 27th Amendment, the ruling elite has abolished the office of CJP.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, the law minister dispelled the impression that the coveted office was removed and said CJP Afridi will continue to head significant judicial bodies like the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) as well as the Judicial Commission of Pakistan. However, after this retirement, the position of CJP will go to whosoever is senior among the chief justices of the FCC and the Supreme Court.

Earlier, it was generally believed that after the creation of the FCC, the new court would be considered a top court in the judicial hierarchy since its chief justice was mentioned at a higher plane than the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Senior Advocate Hafiz Ehsaan Ahmad Khokhar told *Dawn* that the clarification by the National Assembly in the amendment regarding the tenure and retention of the designation of incumbent Supreme Court chief justice rightly and legally addresses a previously overlooked constitutional anomaly during its passage in the Senate.

This clarified framework continues to protect his position until it is expressly reviewed or altered through the proper constitutional process, which had not previously occurred, he said, adding that the latest clarification, confirming the retention of his designation as CJP until he retires, does not create any new right or privilege but merely affirms the continuity already embedded in law and practice.

The counsel said this correction should be viewed solely as a reaffirmation of constitutional consistency since the designation remains intact so long as the foundational conditions of his appointment remain unmodified.

By issuing this clarification through the amendment, the lower house has ensured that the interpretation of tenure aligns with constitutional principles, thereby safeguarding judicial continuity of the office of the chief justice, he said.

However, the clarification also raised eyebrows when former additional attorney general Tariq Mehmood Khokhar described substitution as person-specific legislation, discriminatory and of contested constitutionality.

"The SCP is now a shadow of its former self; the office of CJP has been reduced to a hollow title," he regretted, adding that in the face of it all, the CJP's penchant for "grandiloquent titles was all the more baffling".

"State of denial, narcissistic, delusional or worse?" he lamented.

# Drug prices up by 15pc, not 32pc, since deregulation policy: PPMA

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: The Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) on Wednesday insisted that medicine prices have increased by an average of 15 per cent since the government announced the deregulation policy in February 2024, not 32pc as claimed by the authorities recently.

In a statement, the association said that the figure of 32pc represents the cumulative increase over the past two years, not just after deregulation. "The actual increase of 15pc includes around 2.5pc growth in production units and new product introductions, meaning the real impact on existing medicines is closer to 13.5pc," the statement added.

Citing the latest IQVIA report, considered the most reliable global source for pharmaceutical sales and pricing data, the PPMA said the overall price increase — even after new molecules and organic unit growth stood at only 16pc over the last 12 months.

"Before deregulation, Pakistan's pharmaceutical sector was facing a severe crisis due to strict price controls, unprecedented rupee depreciation, and record inflation of up to 35pc. These factors led to acute shortages of vital medicines, including anti-cancer drugs, insulin, anti-TB medicines, heparin, and cardiovascular drugs, forcing patients to rely on counterfeit or smuggled alternatives," said the PPMA statement.

The deregulation policy for non-essential medicines, it said, has helped restore the availability of over 50 life-saving and critical drugs in local pharmacies, as manufacturers have resumed production. "The association thanked the government for taking timely action to stabilise the market and align Pakistan's policy with international standards, where only essential medicines remain under price control, as practised in India and Bangladesh," it said.

# Motorcyclist picked up for capital blast investigations

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police vehicle approached the scene.

The investigators are also tracking the movement of the bomber to find out if he had any possible accomplices in the federal capital and where he acquired the explosives from. The Counter-Terrorism Department police station, meanwhile, registered a case into the incident.

On Tuesday, 12 people were killed and 36 were injured in a suicide blast outside the district and sessions court building in Islamabad's G-11 area.


**TENDER NOTICE**

Bids are invited for the following:

| Tender No. | Description | Closing Date/ Time |
|---|---|---|
| PD/O&M/PT/32111/25 | Supply of spares for boiler (insert bearing and UV scanner) | 02 Dec, 2025 1500 hrs. |
| PD/O&M/PT/32115/25 | Supply of spares for Ariel gas compressor | 02 Dec, 2025 1500 hrs. |
| PD/O&M/PT/32116/25 | Supply of spares for air compressor, reflux condenser and pipe plug | 02 Dec, 2025 1500 hrs. |
| PD/O&M/PT/32117/25 | Supply of O-ring, gaskets, gearbox, seal oil etc. for different equipment | 02 Dec, 2025 1500 hrs. |

All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bids closing date/ time.

**Extension in Bid Closing & Opening Date**

Closing and opening date of the following tender has been extended as follows:

| Tender No. | Description | Published On | Revised Closing Date/ Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| PD/O&M/PT/31887/25 | Supply of spares for fin fan cooler & sale gas compressor | 21 Oct, 2025 | 28 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs. |

Bidders who have already submitted/sent their proposals (bids) may take them back and resubmit the same before the revised closing date and time mentioned above.

All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the revised bids closing date/ time.

**CORRIGENDUM**

Closing and opening date of the following tender is as follows:

| PPRA'S Ref. No. | Tender No. | Description | Published On | Revised Closing Date/ Time | Revised Opening Date/ Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TS 640325 E | PD/P&C/PT/31720/25 | Supply, design, installation and commissioning of SCADA system at Nasar X-I, Gambat South | 23 Sep, 2025 | 28 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs. | 28 Nov, 2025 1530 hrs. |

Corrigendum due to change in scope of work.

Bidders who have already submitted / sent their proposals (bids) may take them back and resubmit the same before the revised closing date and time mentioned above.

Tender notice / detailed instructions are available on PPRA website at **www.ppra.org.pk** Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through PPL's e-procurement portal at **https://eprocurement.ppl.com.pk** for details see 'Instruction for Bidders Section' of tender documents. PPL reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal.

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SIUT PAKISTAN — SIUT, a 1500-bedded tertiary care teaching hospital providing comprehensive care to patients with renal and related diseases.

**TENDER No. 571**
**Supply of Machines & Equipment for Biomedical and OT at SIUT**

Sealed Tenders are invited from well-established and reputed Suppliers/Authorized Distributors and Sole Agents, who are Sales Tax and Income Tax registered, active tax payers for the year 2025-26. Detailed information of this tender and its terms & conditions may be received from CRS Department, ground floor DFMC, Karachi on any working day between 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. from 17-11-2025 to 01-12-2025 on payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 3000/- in the form of Pay Order in the name of Director, SIUT. The said tender will be collected on 5th floor, DFMC at 02:30 pm on 02-12-2025 (Thursday) and will be opened at 03:00 pm on the same date in the presence of all interested Bidders or their authorized representatives on the above mentioned place.

Tender documents can be downloaded from www.siut.org/join-us/tenders.

**Office of the Director**
Sindh Institute of Urology & Transplantation, Karachi.
Tel: (021) 99216977, 99215718/52, 111 000 313



SIUT PAKISTAN — SIUT, a 1500-bedded tertiary care teaching hospital providing comprehensive care to patients with renal and related diseases.

**TENDER No. 561**
**Supply & Installation of Racks for Pallet at SIUT Mehrunnisa Warehouse**

Sealed Tenders are invited from well-established and reputed Suppliers/Authorized Distributors and Sole Agents, who are Sales Tax and Income Tax registered. All tenders/bids must be accompanied by the earnest money / bid security @ 1% of the total value of the items quoted by the bidder in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft in the name of Director SIUT, Karachi. Detailed information of this tender and its terms & conditions may be received from CRS Department, ground floor DFMC, Karachi on any working day between 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. from14-11-2025 to 28-11-2025 on payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 3000/- in the form of Pay Order in the name of Director, SIUT. The said tender will be collected on 5th floor, DFMC at 03:00 pm on 29-11-2025 (Saturday) and will be opened at 03:30 pm on the same date in the presence of all interested Bidders or their authorized representatives on the above mentioned place.

Tender documents can be downloaded from www.siut.org/join-us/tenders.

**Office of the Director**
Sindh Institute of Urology & Transplantation, Karachi.
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SIUT PAKISTAN — SIUT, a 1500-bedded tertiary care teaching hospital providing comprehensive care to patients with renal and related diseases.

**TENDER No. 568**
**Supply of Drugs/Medicines, Drops, Topical, Liquid Solutions, I.V. Contrast Media & Nutrition's Items etc. for 2025-26**

Sealed Tenders are invited from well-established and reputed Suppliers/Authorized Distributors and Sole Agents, who are Sales Tax and Income Tax registered. All tenders/bids must be accompanied by the earnest money / bid security @ 1% of the total value of the items quoted by the bidder in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft in the name of Director SIUT, Karachi. Detailed information of this tender and its terms & conditions may be received from CRS Department, ground floor DFMC, Karachi on any working day between 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. from 14-11-2025 to 01-12-2025 on payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 3000/- in the form of Pay Order in the name of Director, SIUT. The said tender will be collected on 5th floor, DFMC at 11:00 am on 02-12-2025 (Tuesday) and will be opened at 11:30 am on the same date in the presence of all interested Bidders or their authorized representatives on the above mentioned place.

Tender documents can be downloaded from www.siut.org/join-us/tenders.

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